

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 168861  
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCS-03 DHA-02 L-03 PA-01  
PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 NSCE-00  
SSO-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 /060 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:REGRIBBIN  
APPROVED BY AF:TWSEELYE  
AF/C:TRBUCHANAN  
AF/P:RHOLIDAY (INFO)  
-----122805 200250Z /72  
O 200206Z JUL 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BANGUI IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, CT, US

SUBJECT:DETENTION OF WESTERN JOURNALISTS

REF: BANGUI 2500

1. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SEELYE CALLED IN CAE EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE MOKALO, ACTING FOR AMBASSADOR MAIDOU WHO IS LEGITIMATELY ILL, TO EXPRESS OUR GRAVE CONCERN RE DETENTION OF RANDALL AND GOLDSMITH.

2. SEELYE REVIEWED EVENTS TO DATE, NOTING THAT IN SPITE OF EMBASSY BANGUI'S EFFORTS WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN ANY INFORMATION ON THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE JOURNALISTS OR THE  
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REASON FOR THEIR DETENTION. HE SAID WE ARE ALSO DISTURBED BY THE FACT THAT NO CONSULAR ACCESS HAS BEEN GRANTED ACCORDING TO ACCEPTED INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE. AS IT HAS BEEN FIVE DAYS SINCE THE MEN WERE PICKED UP, THE DEPARTMENT FEELS IT HAS EVERY RIGHT TO BE CONCERNED. SEELYE ASKED MOKALO TO CONTACT THE GOCAE URGENTLY IN ORDER TO OBTAIN DEFINITE INFORMATION AND TO URGE RELEASE OF THE TWO

JOURNALISTS.

3. SEELYE OBSERVED THAT IN LIGHT OF THE GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS, THIS INCIDENT COMES AS A SURPRISE. HE AGAIN SOLICITED THE EMBASSY'S ASSISTANCE.

4. MOKALO STATED THAT AS A RESULT OF THIS OFFICIAL DEMARCHE, THE EMBASSY WOULD COMMUNICATE THE DEPARTMENT'S CONCERNS TO ITS MINISTRY AND WOULD REPORT BACK AS SOON AS A REPLY WAS RECEIVED. MOKALO ASKED FOR CALM AND HOPED THAT AFFAIR WOULD NOT BE BLOWN OUT OF PROPORTION.

5. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE US PRESS WAS CERTAINLY CAPABLE OF MAKING THIS A VERY LARGE ISSUE WHICH COULD BECOME AN IRRITANT TO OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS AND THAT SPEEDY RESOLUTION WAS DESIRABLE.

6. AF/C DIRECTOR BUCHANAN WILL CONFIRM ABOVE POINTS TO AMBASSADOR MAIDOU BY PHONE.

7. FOR YAOUNDE: ARE BRITISH PLANNING TO CONTACT GOCAE ON GOLDSMITH'S BEHALF? DESK DISCUSSED ISSUE WITH BRITISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON AND WILL KEEP THEM INFORMED.

8. AP AND WASH POST STILL SITTING ON STORY. DETENTION HAS NOT YET COME UP IN NOON BRIEFING. HOWEVER, IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL STORY BREAKS, EITHER INTENTIONALLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AS PART OF PRESSURE TACTICS OR AS A LEAK.

9. WOULD APPRECIATE DAILY STATUS REPORT UNTIL ISSUE IS RESOLVED. VANCE

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

66011

DRAFTED YBY: AF/C: REGRIBBIN:LA

APPROVED BY: AF/C: EMARKS

-----022885 212305Z /61

R 211830Z JUL 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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FOR SIETZ

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 168861 ACTION BANGUI INFO PARIS YAOUNDE  
NAIROBI JULY 20.

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1977STATE168861  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** REGRIBBIN  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** 60160467-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 BANGUI 2500  
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**Subject:** DETENTION OF WESTERN JOURNALISTS  
**TAGS:** CASC, CARR, CT, US, (RANDALL, JONATHAN)  
**To:** BANGUI  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009